

**HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING**  
**Highland Town Hall- Highland, Indiana 46322**  
**March 7, 2019 MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

At 6:36 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by Vice President Doug Van Ramshorst at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland, Indiana.

**Roll Call:**

The following were present: Board Members Lola McKay, Doug Van Ramshorst, Marie Russo, Teri Yovkovich, Renee Reinhart, Kellie Shelton, Mary Ellis and Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp. Board Members Dawn Diamantopoulos, Julie Larson, Emily Foreit, Mary Wells were absent. Also present was Nan Mason, Terry Higgins, Renee Rosignol, Aubrey Velasquez, Ben Tomera, Lois Gard-Kish and Michael Blejski.

**Minutes:**

Marie Russo made a motion, seconded by Lola McKay, to approve minutes from February 7, 2019 meetings. The motion passed on a voice vote 7-0.

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with a Revenue/ Expense sheet to date for the Main Street budget.

**Events Committee**

**Car Cruise**

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with a Revenue/ Expense sheet to date for the Car Cruise. Three sponsorships had been confirmed and, to date, expenses identified were the same as in 2018. He further reported that a resolution approving the contract with Thunder Road was presented to and approved by the Redevelopment Commission at their February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Last Call For Summer**

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with a draft site plan and an overview of issues to decide on the event. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Board was as follows: to establish the event times as 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm; that the bands who perform will face out the south side of the gazebo toward Ridge Road; to use the draft beer garden operator proposal to send out to Highland restaurants and 95ATE5 Brewpub; to expand the size of the beer garden if the town would permit it; to try and find child-friendly activities that can be set up adjacent to the beer garden; that no fee should be charged for food vendors to encourage participation; and, to reach out initially to the musical acts from 2018, along with the bands that Teri Yovkovich knew about. The Redevelopment Assistant said he would draft a food vendor application for the review at the April meeting.

**Festival of the Trail**

The Redevelopment Assistant said he would provide the Board with a draft vendor booth application that would, per feedback from last year, expand the types of items to be sold at the event. A lengthy discussion ensued on issues such as what products would be accepted and what ones would not, the amount of publicity for the 2018 event and other changes needed for the 2019 event.

Renee Reinhart expressed concern that more of the discussion should take place at the committee level and that the discussion was beginning to re-hash items discussed at previous meetings.

**Art Committee**

**Downtown Sculpture**

The Redevelopment Assistant reported that to date, there had been three sculptors providing a total of eight submissions for the Call For Sculpture Art, which had a March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Community Garden Committee**

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with a copy of an email from the Community Garden Committee, summarizing their recent communications and meeting. He also noted that grant applications had been submitted to the Lake County Master Gardeners Association and "Project Orange Thumb". Renee Reinhart asked the Redevelopment Commission Assistant several questions, including whether it was ok to partner with Zandstra's Garden and Greenhouse on a voucher program, if a banner or signage and benches were permitted, and whether a bank account could be set up to start collecting donations. Also, the question was asked as to who or what department currently is responsible for mowing the vacant lot. The Redevelopment Commission Assistant said he would find out the answers to those questions and report back to the Committee.

**Design/ Aesthetics & Historic Preservation Committee**

No report

**Downtown Promotions Committee**

The Redevelopment Commission Assistant, after hearing various points of discussion concerning the need to improve downtown and various comparisons to neighboring communities, asked the six downtown business owners present at the meeting to discuss among themselves ideas for downtown promotions that would benefit the business climate and report back to the Board.

**Discussion**

The Redevelopment Assistant supplied the Board with 2019 budget information for their review.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, Lola McKay made a motion, seconded by Marie Russo, to adjourn. It passed on a voice vote 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.